

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 to 5 (Canceled)

6. (New) A method of administering nattokinase to a patient restricting his or her intake of vitamin K2 or for whom vitamin K2 is contraindicated, comprising administering to said patient a composition comprising a *Bacillus natto* culture extract comprising nattokinase and 1 µg or less of Vitamin K2/g dry weight.

7. (New) The method of claim 6, wherein the composition is in the form of a liquid, a paste, a powder, a granule, a solid, or a freeze-dried solid.

8. (New) The method of claim 6, wherein the composition is in the form of a capsule or tablet.

9. (New) The method of claim 6, wherein the composition is a food product.

10. (New) The method of claim 6, wherein the composition further comprises one or more additives selected from the group consisting of water-soluble dietary fiber, lactose, and cellulose.

11. (New) The method of claim 6, wherein the extract comprises at least 1000 FU/g nattokinase.

12. (New) The method of claim 6, wherein the extract comprises at least 2500 FU/g nattokinase.

13. (New) The method of claim 6, wherein the extract comprises at least 5000 FU/g nattokinase.

14. (New) The method of claim 6, wherein the extract comprises at least 10,000 FU/g nattokinase.

15. (New) The method of claim 6, wherein the *Bacillus natto* culture extract is obtained from a *Bacillus natto* culture broth prepared by a process comprising (i) culturing *Bacillus natto* in a liquid medium to produce a cultured medium comprising nattokinase and vitamin K2 and (ii) treating the cultured medium with chitosan to substantially remove vitamin K2 therefrom while retaining other nutrients.

16. (New) A method of administering nattokinase to a patient at risk of or suffering from thrombogenesis, comprising administering to said patient a composition comprising a *Bacillus natto* culture extract comprising nattokinase and 1 µg or less of Vitamin K2/g dry weight.

17. (New) The method of claim 16, wherein the composition is in the form of a liquid, a paste, a powder, a granule, a solid, or a freeze-dried solid.

18. (New) The method of claim 16, wherein the composition is in the form of a capsule or tablet.

19. (New) The method of claim 16, wherein the composition is a food product.

20. (New) The method of claim 16, wherein the composition further comprises one or more additives selected from the group consisting of water-soluble dietary fiber, lactose, and cellulose.

21. (New) The method of claim 16, wherein the extract comprises at least 1000 FU/g nattokinase.

22. (New) The method of claim 16, wherein the extract comprises at least 2500 FU/g nattokinase.

23. (New) The method of claim 16, wherein the extract comprises at least 5000 FU/g nattokinase.

24. (New) The method of claim 16, wherein the extract comprises at least 10,000 FU/g nattokinase.

25. (New) The method of claim 16, wherein the *Bacillus natto* culture extract is obtained from a *Bacillus natto* culture broth prepared by a process comprising (i) culturing *Bacillus natto* in a liquid medium to produce a cultured medium comprising nattokinase and vitamin K2 and (ii) treating the cultured medium with chitosan to substantially remove vitamin K2 therefrom while retaining other nutrients.

26. (New) The method of claim 16, further comprising administering to the patient a synthetic inhibitor of a vitamin K-dependent blood coagulation factor.

27. (New) A method of administering nattokinase to a patient in need thereof, comprising administering to said patient a composition comprising a *Bacillus natto* culture extract obtained from a chitosan-treated *Bacillus natto* culture broth that comprises nattokinase and 1 µg or less of Vitamin K2/g dry weight and that is prepared by a process comprising (i) culturing *Bacillus natto* in a liquid medium to produce a cultured medium comprising nattokinase and vitamin K2 and (ii) treating the cultured medium with chitosan to substantially remove vitamin K2 therefrom while retaining other nutrients.

28. (New) A method of producing vitamin K2 comprising (i) culturing *Bacillus natto* in a liquid medium to produce a cultured medium comprising nattokinase and vitamin K2 and (ii) treating the cultured medium with chitosan and (iii) recovering vitamin K2.

29. (New) The method of claim 28, wherein the step of recovering vitamin K2 comprises filtering the cultured medium to obtain a filtration residue and extracting vitamin K2 from said filtration residue.

30. (New) Vitamin K2 obtained by the method of claim 28.